

STATE SETS EXPORT RECORD

In 2003, Wisconsin exports surged by 7.7 percent to a record \$11.5 billion in 2003, as compared to a 4.4 percent export increase for the United States as a whole.

“For the second straight year, Wisconsin’s export growth has outpaced that of the nation, indicating tremendous opportunities for our state’s companies in world markets,” Governor Doyle said.

China is now Wisconsin’s fourth largest export market, up from sixth in 2002, as exports grew 52.7 percent to \$548.2 million. Nationally, Wisconsin ranks 16th in exports to China, up from 17th in 2002.

Exports to Canada, Wisconsin’s largest international market, grew by 10.8 percent to \$4.3 billion. Japan continued in second place despite a 14.7 percent decline to \$816.7 million, and Mexico again ranked third with a 9.9 percent increase to \$788.0 million. The United Kingdom took fifth place with an 18.4 percent increase to \$493.9 million.

Industrial machinery, including computer equipment, continues to be Wisconsin’s top export commodity, growing by 7.8 percent to \$3.9 billion. Medical instruments ranked second with an increase of 1 percent to \$1.6 billion. Transportation equipment held third with a 16.3 percent increase to \$964.5 million. Electrical machinery took fourth place with a 15 percent increase to \$900.4 million. Rounding out the top five was paper and paperboard, with a 5.1 percent increase to \$584.6 million.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, each billion dollars of exports creates an additional 15,000 jobs.